

## Message Text

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54

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 /082 W

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R 240651Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3539

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 1927

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, SY

SUBJ: SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN DELEGATIONS FORMED TO NEGOTIATE

JOINT COMMAND

1. DAMASCUS PRESS MAY 23 ANNOUNCED THAT BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND AND PLO HAD APPOINTED DELEGATIONS TO ENTER INTO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING FORMATION OF JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMAND. IN LETTER TO PLO EXEC. CT, SYRIAN PRIMIN AYOUBI SAID THAT NATIONAL COMMAND HAS APPOINTED FOLLOWING DELEGATES: BAATH PARTY ASST. SECY GEN. ABDULLAH AL-AHMAR (CHAIRMAN); PEOPLE'S COUNCIL CHAIRMAN MUHAMMAD ALI AL-HALABI; PRIME MINISTER MAHMUD AL-AYYUBI; REGIONAL COMMAND ASST. SECY GEN MUHAMMAD JABIR BAJBUJ; DEPRIMIN AND FOREIGN MINISTER ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM; DEPRIMIN MUHAMMAD HAYDAR; NATIONAL COMMAND MEMBERS BAQIR YASIN, SUHAYL SUKKARIYAH AND FAWAZ SAYYAGH; MINDEF MUSTAPHA TLAS AND PROGRESSIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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FRONT MEMBER ABD AL-GHANI QANNUT.

2. PLO EXCOMM HAD ALREADY APPOINTED DELEGATION INCLUDING KHALID AL-FAHUM, FAROUQ AL-QADDUMI, ZUHAYR MUHSIN, ABD AL-MUHSIN ABU MAYZAR, MUHAMMAD ZUHDI AL-NASHASHIBI, ADIB ABD RABBU, HAMID ABU SITTACH, AND ABD AL-JAWAD SALIH, PRESUMABLY UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF FAHUM.

3. PRESS STATES DELEGATION CHAIRMEN WILL JOINTLY DECIDE DATE FOR FIRST MEETING.

4. COMMENT: ASAD ORIGINALLY PROMOTED JOINT COMMAND CONCEPT ON MARCH 8 DURING SECRETARY'S RECENT MISSION TO MIDDLE EAST. WHEN SECRETARY SUSPENDED HIS MISSION, SYRIANS APPEARED TO DO SAME WITH ACTIVE PLANNING OF JOINT COMMAND. HOWEVER, THEY NEVER OFFICIALLY BURIED IDEA NOR PUBLICLY PRESSED IT WITH PLO, WHICH REPORTEDLY HAD RESERVATIONS REGARDING CONCEPT OF JOINT COMMAND FROM BEGINNING.

SARG DECISIONS TO RESURFACE JOINT COMMAND NEGOTIATIONS AT SAME TIME AS IT ANNOUNCED SIX-MONTH UNDOF EXTENSION SHOULD BE SEEN AS ASSOCIATED STEPS IN SINGLE INITIATIVE POSSIBLY TAKEN WITH ACTIVE SOVIET ENCOURAGEMENT. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT FORM AND SUBSTANCE OF JOINT COMMAND OR COMMANDS WILL BE, BUT HIGH LEVEL OF DELEGATIONS INDICATES THE IMPORTANCE THAT BOTH SIDES ATTACH TO IT.

MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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